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PAT DORE: A REMEMBRANCE

ALAINE S. WILLIAMS* & ROBERT F. WILLIAMS**

THE loss of Professor Patricia A. Dore has had great consequences, both public and private. To the two of us, the most immediately felt are private losses. Because we have not lived in Florida for the past decade, we have not gained the direct benefit of Pat's public contributions. We have, however, watched them from our home in New Jersey.

Pat's involvement in Florida's public life in the areas of state constitutional law, privacy, and open government are well known.¹ Florida's contributions in these areas, in turn, are a model to the nation.

For Alaine, Pat was first a close friend and colleague, then a supporter of her decision to take the LSAT and come to Florida State, then a teacher, and finally a career advisor. Pat's friendship, however, was never contingent upon Alaine's decision to go into the law. Pat's willingness to help Bob convince Alaine to go to law school, however, will never be forgotten by either of us.

For Bob, Pat served as a model of the life of service that can be lived by a law professor. As one of the "first generation" practitioners under the then-new Florida Administrative Procedure Act (APA),² Bob learned many things from Pat's experience with the APA. Unlike many law professors, Pat was open to—and willing to learn from—practitioners. She often invited Bob to lecture in her class about unfolding developments in litigation under the APA. She was generally interested in both the academic and practical applications of the new and important statute.

As the first woman law professor at Florida State in the early 1970s, Pat served as a beacon for women who were just realizing the range of opportunities for them in the legal profession. Her very presence on the faculty, together with her visible participation in the political and legislative processes in Florida, illustrated the important work that

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1. See, e.g., Patricia A. Dore, *Of Rights Lost and Gained*, 6 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 609 (1978).

2. Ch. 74-310, 1974 Fla. Laws 952 (codified at FLA. STAT. §§ 120.50-.73 (1991)).

women could do in what was still then primarily a "good old boys" network. It is difficult for many of us to remember how truly different the legal world was, in terms of both gender and race, just twenty-two years ago when Pat came to Florida State. The life she led in Tallahassee and at the law school is one of the reasons why the legal world looks different today.

Less apparent on the surface than her encouragement to, and being a role model for, women was Pat's deep commitment to diversity in the legal profession and affirmative action in the law school student body. She served as a mentor, advocate for, friend, and supporter of a generation of minority lawyers who came to Florida State and then spread out across Florida and beyond to help change the face of the legal profession forever. This process is, of course, still unfinished, but it was in many respects begun by Pat's often-unnoticed efforts as a law faculty member. It is, therefore, fitting that the law school has decided to name a scholarship for minority students after her.³

In addition to all of her accomplishments, and her support for the careers of others, though, Pat was just simply a lot of fun. She loved political talk, strategizing and jousting with those in power. One of our earliest memories of this is of the information campaign we literally put together in her living room in 1973. We attempted to convince a reluctant Legislature to make Florida one of the first states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).⁴ Pat knew instinctively that if the ERA was not ratified during the 1973 Special Session, opposition would successfully prevent Florida from endorsing the amendment. Pat used her positions as a member of the Florida Commission on Human Relations and professor of constitutional law to advocate ratification. Unfortunately, rather than submitting the amendment to a vote, a legislative committee opted to hold statewide hearings. By the time the Legislature reconvened that year, the ERA had become a national controversy and was doomed in Florida and across the country, for the time being.

We will miss Pat greatly—her smile, her plants, her cats, her signed baseball from Tony La Russa.⁵ Pat was many things to many people. However, she was, above all, a person of conscience, one who believed deeply in the equality of men, women, and people of all races. She

3. Pat Dore Scholarship Fund for Minority Students, Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, Florida.

4. For earlier litigation overturning a provision of the *Florida Constitution* that had prevented immediate ratification of the ERA, see *Trombetta v. Florida*, 353 F. Supp. 575 (M.D. Fla. 1973); *Trombetta v. Florida*, 339 F. Supp. 1359 (M.D. Fla. 1972).

5. J.D., 1978, Florida State University College of Law. Manager, Oakland Athletics.

touched us deeply and we mourn her loss. We will try to live up to her example.

